

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:


I support Microsoft and its desire to settle the antitrust lawsuit that the government brought against them. I believe it is in the best interests of our country and the economy. This lawsuit has brought untold damage to the economy and it was one of the factors leading to the recession. I am sure you are aware that Microsoft is a leader in its field and spawned many opportunities for other companies. Our country is presently the leader in the computer field. Don't prolong this any more and allow for the possibility for other countries to take the initiative away from our country. It potentially has security impacts that can only be measured in future developments. I hate to use an old cliché but as Microsoft's business goes so goes America's lead in this field. Don't delay the settlement.

As a graduate of the University of California in electrical and electronic business, I believe that I have an inside view of the problem. While Microsoft is a fierce competitor on one hand, they still allow many opportunities for others to enter and succeed in the business. Further delay in this suit will only cause further erosion of these opportunities. Believe me there are many legitimate actions that Microsoft can exercise that will decrease these opportunities. Like any good management plan, it must include protection of the company and its stockholders.

The settlement proposed should be grabbed and taken to the bank.

The most important aspect of the proposal is that it will not break-up Microsoft. I hope you agree and settle this case now.

Sincerely,



Richard Hearth  
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